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The Morning Star

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October 24, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I, Auction No. 902 (Docket No. 13-53)
Mobility Fund Phase II (Docket No. 10-208)
Commnet Wireless, LLC and Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe, working in conjunction with Commnet Wireless, have recently completed the construction of a brand new network, partially funded via the Commission's Auction No. 902, and that network has begun providing supported services, including 3G service, to the residents of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. This has vindicated the Commission's policy judgments underlying the implementation of a Tribal Mobility Fund, and resulted in a substantial public benefit to the residents of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. We applaud the Commission for its efforts to eliminate the broadband divide in this country, and in particular, to bring the benefits of 21st century broadband technologies to the residents of rural and remote low-income areas such as the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

But the work is by no means finished. Introduction of 3G service to the Reservation, when the vast bulk of the United States has much faster speeds available, is only an interim solution. The Tribe respectfully urges the Commission to move forward with its efforts to refocus Universal Service Funds to unserved and underserved areas and immediately award Mobility Fund Phase II funding, so that service to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe can be upgraded to provide 4G speeds, before 4G itself becomes obsolete.

Now is the time to issue an order resolving the issues that are pending in the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* regarding Mobility Fund Phase II ("FNPRM").¹ In the FNPRM, at ¶28, the Commission said: "We expect to adopt the distribution mechanism for [Mobility Fund]

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization: Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support: Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd. 3962 (2016).

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.


Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

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Phase II in 2012 with implementation in 2013." No such implementation has yet occurred, and it is our understanding that the proceeding is ripe for a decision. The residents of the Reservation should not be required to wait any longer.

Again, we sincerely thank the members of the Commission for having implemented Mobility Fund Phase I, including Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I. We look forward to a Commission decision on Mobility Fund Phase II.

Sincerely,


Llevando Fisher
President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

cc:

Hon. Thomas Wheeler, Chairman

Hon. Mignon Clyburn

Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel

Hon. Ajit Pai

Hon. Michael O'Rielly

Office of Native Affairs and Policy